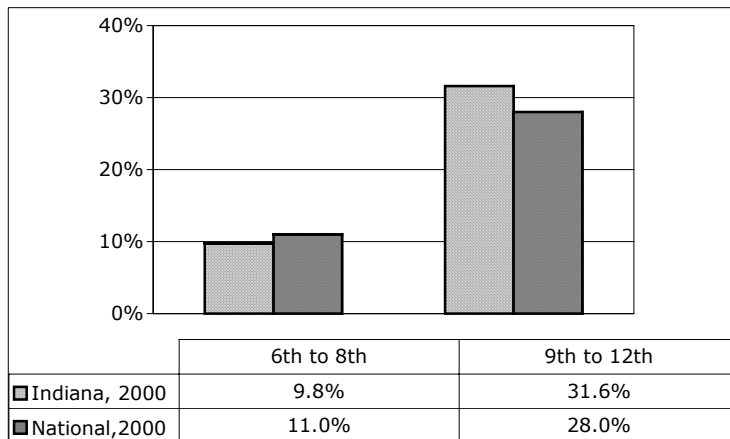




TOBACCO USE BY INDIANA YOUTH

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the United States. Annually cigarette smoking causes more deaths than alcohol, AIDS, car accidents, illegal drugs, murders and suicides, combined. If current smoking trends continue, **these deaths will occur to 167,000 Indiana kids** under age 18¹. Cigarette use among Indiana youth, similar to Hoosier adults, is higher than the national average.

Cigarette Smoking by Youth, Indiana vs. U.S



Youth Cigarette Smoking Rates, Indiana vs. National

(left) For high school students the smoking rates are higher in Indiana than the U.S., but Indiana is slightly lower than the national rate for middle school students. Also illustrated is the increased percentage of youth that smoke in high school compared to middle school-aged children.

Source: Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)¹

These smoking rates are shocking considering it is illegal in Indiana to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18. Although this is true, an estimated **22.7 million packs of cigarettes each year are smoked or sold to kids in Indiana**²!

Access to tobacco results in **20,500 kids becoming daily smokers each year**; this translates to **56 Hoosier youths each day** or **2 children each hour**...

Many Hoosier children are also exposed to over 4,000 dangerous chemicals through secondhand smoke, which is also a cancer-causing substance. An estimated **420,000 children are exposed to secondhand smoke in the home**³.

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¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Projected Smoking-Related Deaths Among Youth-United States," MMWR 45(44):971-974

² DiFranza, J. & J. Librett, "State and Federal Revenues from Tobacco Consumed by Minors," *American Journal of Public Health (AJPH)* 89(7): 1106-1108, July 1999; Cummings, et al., "The Illegal Sale of Cigarettes to US Minors: Estimates by State," *AJPH* 84(2): 300-302, February 1994.

³ Centers for Disease Control, "State-Specific Prevalence of Cigarette Smoking Among Adults, and Children's and Adolescents' Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke-United States, 1996," MMWR 46(44): 1038-1043.